2012-2013 Influenza Season

Reporting through the week ending October 27, 2012

(All data are provisional and may change as more reports are received.)

Overview: Surveillance for the 2012–2013 Influenza Season officially began on October 7th, 2012. The Colorado Flu Report is published weekly to provide a concise and up to date summary of influenza activity in the State of Colorado. Current surveillance activities include: reporting of hospitalizations and deaths due to influenza, reporting of influenza-like illness (ILI) visits by selected sites, reporting of influenza testing activity by sentinel hospital labs, reporting of ILI outbreaks in long term care facilities, and monitoring circulating influenza viruses through molecular typing at the state public health laboratory.

Case Reporting: Due to the currently low influenza activity and the concern of false positive results from rapid antigen tests, influenza-associated hospitalizations are currently being counted as cases only if they are positive by PCR, DFA or viral culture. This will change as influenza activity increases.

Synopsis: For the week ending October 27th, influenza activity remained at a low level, based primarily on a low, but slowly increasing number of confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations and a small number of PCR positives at the CDPHE laboratory.

- For the week ending October 27th, there were three additional influenza-associated hospitalizations confirmed (one from the week ending October 13th and two from the most recent week). All three specimens confirmed as type B influenza. A cumulative total of four hospitalizations from two counties have been confirmed so far this season.
- Influenza-like illness reported by Kaiser Permanente for the Denver-Boulder metropolitan area remained less than 1.0%. Influenza-like illness reported by Mesa County was 0%.
- Sentinel hospital labs (17/19 reporting) tested 303 specimens and 4 (1.3%) were positive (all
 for influenza B). Caution should be used when interpreting these data based on the possibility
 of false positive results with the current use of rapid flu tests. There were two additional
 specimens that tested positive for influenza by PCR at the state laboratory (both for type B
 influenza), however, the majority of specimens being submitted are still not confirming by PCR.

To view the weekly Colorado Flu (surveillance) Reports, go

to: http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-DCEED/CBON/1251607766255

To view the weekly CDC flu (surveillance) Reports, go

to: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/index.htm